



Cletus Collom

Cletus Collom, age 95, of Clare, passed away on March 18, 1994.

He was born on April 14, 1898, in Great Falls, Montana, and came to Michigan in his early youth. A resident of Clare for the past 19 years, he was an active industrialist for most of his life.

His interest in electronics developed early, and while attending St. Norbert College, he built one of the country's first commercial radio stations which is still in operation in Green Bay, WI.

In 1938, Collom founded Weltronic Company, a resistance welding controls pioneer, which grew to world leadership by 1960. During World War II, he developed the Magnaflux process and the first walkie-talkie for the U.S. Army. He developed other businesses which used the principles of radio electronics, pioneering the use of radio frequency for industrial heating and developing radio-controlled garage door openers and amateur radio transmitters. Welduction Corporation and Multi-Elmac Corporation were established as a result. He also built Powertran, Bay Products, Weltronic England, Weltronic Belgium, and Worldtronic Clare.

Collom had more than 50 patents covering various aspects of industrial electronics. He received numerous awards for his success, notably: The American Welding Society George N. Singer Award in 1962; Honorary Doctor of Science from St. Norbert University in 1976; the AWS District 11 Meritorious Award in 1991; and the Elihu Thomson Resistance Welding Award in April 1993.

Collom was a member of the Clare council of the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are his wife, Mabel; one son, Donald, of Novi; two daughters, Dorothy of San Diego, and Yvette Edmonds of Flushing; 19 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on March 21 at St. Cecilia Church in Clare, with Rev. Joseph Ryan officiating. Burial was in St. Cecilia Cemetery in Clare. Arrangements were by Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home, Clare.